Numb. 24

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Quicquid agunt Homines noſtri Farrago Libelli.

From *Thurſday June* 2. to *Saturday June* 4. 1709.

White's Chocolate-houſe, June 2.

IN my Paper of the 28th of the laſt Month, I mention'd ſeveral Characters which want Explanation to the Generality of Readers: Among others, I ſpoke of a Pretty Fellow; but I have receiv'd a kind Admonition in a Letter, to take Care that I do not omit to ſhow alſo what is meant by a *very* Pretty Fellow, which is to be allow'd as a Character by it ſelf, and a Perſon exalted above the other by a peculiar Sprightlineſs; as one who, by a diſtinguiſhing Vigour, outſtrips his Companions, and has thereby deſerved and obtained a particular Appellation, or Nickname of Familiarity. Some have this Diſtinction from the Fair Sex, who are ſo generous as to take into their Protection thoſe who are laugh'd at by the Men, and place 'em for that Reaſon in Degrees of Favour. The chief of this Sort is Colonel *Brunett*, who is a Man of Faſhion, becauſe he will be ſo; and practiſes a very janty Way of Behaviour, becauſe he is too careleſs to know when he offends, and too ſanguine to be mortified if he did know it. Thus the Colonel has met with a Town ready to receive him, and can't poſſibly ſee why he ſhould not make uſe of their Favour, and ſet himſelf in the Firſt Degree of Converſation. Therefore he is very ſucceſsfully loud among the Wits, familiar among the Ladies, and diſſolute among the Rakes. Thus he is admitted in one Place, becauſe he is ſo in another; and every Man treats *Brunett* well, not out of his particular Eſteem for him, but in Reſpect to the Opinion of others. It is to me a ſolid Pleaſure to ſee the World thus miſtaken on the good-natur'd Side; for 'tis Ten to One but the Colonel mounts into a General Officer, marries a fine Lady, and is Maſter of a good Eſtate, before they come to explain upon him. What gives moſt Delight to me in this Obſervation, is, that all this ariſes from pure Nature, and the Colonel can account for his Succeſs no more than thoſe by whom he ſucceeds. For theſe Cauſes and Conſiderations, I pronounce him a true Woman's Man, and in the firſt Degree, *A very Pretty Fellow.* The next to a Man of this univerſal Genius, is one who is peculiarly form'd for the Service of the Ladies, and his Merit chiefly is to be of no Conſequence. I am indeed a little in Doubt, Whether he ought not rather to be call'd a *very Happy*, than a very Pretty Fellow? For he is admitted at all Hours: All he ſays or does, which would offend in another, are paſs'd over in him; and all Actions and Speeches which pleaſe, doubly pleaſe if they come from him: No one wonders or takes Notice when he's wrong; but all adore him when he's in the Right.— By the Way it is fit to remark, That there are People of better Senſe than theſe, who endevour at this Character; but they are out of Nature; and tho', with ſome Induſtry, they get the Characters of Fools, they cannot arrive to be *very*, ſeldom to be meerly *Pretty Fellows.* But where Nature has form'd a Perſon for this Station amongſt Men, he is gifted with a peculiar Genius for Succeſs, and his very Errors and Abſurdities contribute to it; this Felicity attending him to his Life's End. For it being in a Manner neceſſary that he ſhould be of no Conſequence, he is as well in old Age as Youth; and I know a Man, whoſe Son has been ſome Years a Pretty Fellow, who is himſelf at this Hour a *very* Pretty Fellow. One muſt move tenderly in this Place, for we are now in the Ladies Lodgings, and ſpeaking of ſuch as are ſupported by their Influence and Favour; againſt which there is not, neither ought there to be, any Diſpute or Obſervation. But when we come into more free Air, one may talk a little more at large. Give me Leave then to mention Three, whom I do not doubt but we ſhall ſee make conſiderable Figures; and theſe are ſuch as, for their *Bacchanalian* Performances, muſt be admitted into this Order. They are Three Brothers lately landed from *Holland:* As yet, indeed, they have not made their publick Entry, but lodge and converſe at *Wapping.* They have merited already on the Water-ſide particular Titles: The Firſt is call'd *Hogſhead*; the Second, *Culverin*; and the Third, *Muſquet.* This Fraternity is preparing for our End of the Town by their Ability in the Exerciſes of *Bacchus*, and meaſure their Time and Merit by Liquid Weight, and Power of Drinking. *Hogſhead* is a prettier Fellow than *Culverin* by Two Quarts, and *Culverin* than *Muſquet* by a full Pint. It is to be fear'd, *Hogſhead* is ſo often too full, and *Culverin* over-loaded, that *Muſquet* will be the only laſting *very* Pretty Fellow of the Three. A Third Sort of this Denomination are ſuch as, by very daring Adventures in Love, have purchas'd to themſelves Renown and new Names; as, *Jo. Carry*, for his exceſſive Strength and Vigour; *Tom. Drybones*, for his generous Loſs of Youth and Health; and *Cancrum*, for his meritorious Rottenneſs. Theſe great and leading Spirits are propos'd to all ſuch of our *Britiſh* Youth as would arrive at Perfection in theſe different Kinds; and if their Parts and Accompliſhments were well imitated, it is not doubted, but that our Nation would ſoon excel all others in Wit and Arts, as they already do in Arms.

N. B. The Gentleman who ſtole *Betty Pepin*, may own it, for he is allow'd to be a *very* Pretty Fellow.

We muſt proceed to the Explanation of other Terms in our Writings.

To know what a Toaſt is in the Country, gives as much Perplexity as ſhe her ſelf does in Town: And indeed, the Learned differ very much upon the Original of this Word, and the Acceptation of it among the Moderns. However, it is by all agreed to have a joyous and chearful Import. A Toaſt in a cold Morning, heighten'd by Nutmeg, and ſweeten'd with Sugar, has for many Ages been given to our ruſtick Diſpenſers of Juſtice, before they enter'd upon Cauſes, and has been of great and politick Uſe to take off the Severity of their Sentences; but has indeed been remarkable for one ill Effect, That it inclines thoſe who uſe it immoderately to ſpeak *Latin*, to the Admiration, rather than Information, of an Audience. This Application of a Toaſt makes it very obvious, that the Word may, without Metaphor, be underſtood as an apt Name for a Thing which raiſes us in the moſt ſovereign Degree. But many of the Wits of the laſt Age will aſſert, That the Word, in its preſent Senſe, was known among them in their Youth, and had its Riſe from an Accident which happen'd at the Town of *Bath* in the Reign of *Charles* the Second. It happen'd, that on a Publick Day a celebrated Beauty of thoſe Times was in the *Croſs-Bath*, and one of the Crowd of her Admirers took a Glaſs of the Water in which the Fair One ſtood, and drank her Health to the Company. There was in the Place a Gay Fellow, half fuddled, who offer'd to jump in, and ſwore, Tho' he lik'd not the Liquor, he would have the Toaſt. Tho' he was oppos'd in his Reſolution, this Whim gave Foundation to the preſent Honour which is done to the Lady we mention in our Liquors, who has ever ſince been call'd a *Toaſt.* Tho' this Inſtitution had ſo trivial a Beginning, it is now elevated into a formal Order; and that happy Virgin who is receiv'd and drank to at their Meetings, has no more to do in this Life, but to judge and accept of the firſt good Offer. The Manner of her Inauguration is much like that of the Choice of a Doge in *Venice:* It is perform'd by Balloting; and when ſhe

ſhe is ſo choſen, ſhe reigns indiſputably for that enſuing Year; but muſt be choſen anew to prolong her Empire a Moment beyond it. When ſhe is regularly choſen, her Name is written with a Diamond on a Drinking-glaſs. The Hieroglyphick of the Diamond is to ſhow her, that her Value is imaginary; and that of the Glaſs to acquaint her, that her Condition is frail, and depends on the Hand which holds her. This wiſe Deſign admoniſhes her, neither to over-rate or depreciate her Charms; as well conſidering and applying, that it is perfectly according to the Humour and Taſte of the Company, whether the Toaſt is eaten or left as an Offal.

The Foremoſt of the whole Rank of Toaſts, and the moſt undiſputed in their preſent Empire, are Mrs. *Gatty* and Mrs. *Frontlet*: The Firſt, an Agreeable; the Second, an Awful Beauty. Theſe Ladies are perfect Friends; out of a Knowledge, that their Perfections are too different to ſtand in Competition. He that likes *Gatty*, can have no Reliſh for ſo ſolemn a Creature as *Frontlet*; and an Admirer of *Frontlet*, will call *Gatty* a Maypole Girl. *Gatty* for ever ſmiles upon you; and *Frontlet* diſdains to ſee you ſmile. *Gatty*'s Love is a ſhining quick Flame; *Frontlet*'s a ſlow waſting Fire. *Gatty* likes the Man that diverts her; *Frontlet* him who adores her. *Gatty* alſways improves the Soil in which ſhe travels; *Frontlet* lays waſte the Country. *Gatty* does not only ſmile, but laughs at her Lover; *Frontlet* does not only look ſerious, but frowns at 'em. All the Men of Wit, and Coxcombs their Followers, are profeſs'd Servants of *Gatty*: The Politicians and Pretenders give ſolemn Worſhip to *Frontlet*. Their Reign will be beſt judg'd of by its Duration. *Frontlet* will never be choſen more; and *Gatty* is a Toaſt for Life.

St. James's Coffee-houſe, June 3.

Letters from *Hamburgh* of the 7th Inſtant, *N. S.* inform us, That no Art or Coſt is omitted to make the Stay of his *Daniſh* Majeſty at *Dreſden* agreeable; but there are various Speculations upon the Interview between King *Auguſtus* and that Prince, many putting Politick Conſtructions upon his *Daniſh* Majeſty's Arrival, at a Time when his Troops are marching out of *Hungary*, with Orders to paſs through *Saxony*, where it is given out, that they are to be recruited. It is ſaid alſo, That ſeveral *Poliſh* Senators have invited King *Auguſtus* to return into *Poland*. His Majeſty of *Sweden*, according to the ſame Advices, has paſs'd the *Nieper* without any Oppoſition from the *Muſcovites*, and advances with all poſſible Expedition towards *Volhinia*, where he propoſes to join King *Staniſlaus* and General *Creſſau*. The *Muſcovite* Detachment, conſiſting of 14000 Men, commanded by General *Goltz*, was not advanc'd farther than *Kijow*, and could not come up to the Enemy within Twenty Days.

We hear from *Bern* of the 1ſt Inſtant, *N. S.* That there is not a Province in *France*, from whence the Court is not apprehenſive of receiving Accounts of Publick Emotions, occaſion'd by the Want of Corn. The General Diet of the 13 Cantons is aſſembled at *Baden*; but have not yet enter'd upon Buſineſs, ſo that the Affair of *Tockenburg* is yet at a Stand.

Letters from the *Hague*, dated the 11th Inſtant, *N. S.* advite, That Monſieur *Rouille* having acquainted the Miniſters of the Allies, that his Maſter had refus'd to ratify the Preliminaries of a Treaty adjuſted with Monſieur *Torcy*, ſet out for *Paris* on Sunday Morning. The ſame Day the Foreign Miniſters met a Committee of the States General, where Monſieur *van Heſſen* open'd the Buſineſs upon which they were aſſembled, and in a very warm Diſcourſe laid before them the Conduct of *France* in the late Negotiations, repreſenting the abject Manner in which ſhe had laid open her own Diſtreſſes, which reduc'd her to a Compliance with the Demands of all the Allies, and the mean Manner in receding from thoſe Points to which her Miniſter had conſented. The reſpective Miniſters of each Potentate of the Alliance ſeverally expreſs'd their Reſentment of the faithleſs Behaviour of the *French*, and gave each other mutual Aſſurances of the Conſtancy and Reſolution of their Principals, to proceed with the utmoſt Vigour againſt the Common Enemy. His Grace the Duke of *Marlborough* ſet out from the *Hague* on the 9th in the Afternoon, and lay that Night at *Rotterdam*, from whence at Four the next Morning he proceeded towards *Antwerp*, with Deſign to reach *Ghent* on this Day. All the Troops in the *Low-Countries* are in Motion towards the General Rendezvous between the *Scheld* and the *Lis*, and the whole Army will be form'd on the 12th Inſtant; and 'tis ſaid, that on the 14th they will advance towards the Enemy's Country. In the mean Time, the Mareſchal *de Villars* has aſſembled the *French* Army between *Lens*, *la Baſſee*, and *Douay*.

Yeſterday Morning Sir *John Norris* with the Squadron under his Command, ſail'd from the *Downes* for *Holland*.

From my own Apartment, June 3.

I have the Honour of the following Letter from a Gentleman whom I receive into my Family, and order the Heralds at Arms to enroll him accordingly.

Mr. Bickerſtaff,

THO' you have excluded me the Honour of your Family, yet I have ventur'd to correſpond with the ſame great Perſons as your ſelf, and have wrote this Poſt to the King of France; *tho' I'm in a Manner unknown in his Country, and have not been ſeen there theſe many Months.*

To LEWIS le Grand.

Tho' in your Country I'm unknown,
Yet, Sir, I muſt adviſe you;
Of late ſo poor and mean you're grown,
That all the World deſpiſe you.
Here Vermin eat your Majeſty,
There meagre Subjects ſtand unfed;
What ſurer Signs of Poverty.
Than many Lice, and little Bread;
Then, Sir, the preſent Minute chooſe,
Our Armies are advanced,
Thoſe Terms you at the *Hague* refuſe,
At *Paris* won't be granted.
Conſider this, and *Dunkirk* raze,
And *Anna*'s Title own;
Send one Pretender out to graze,
And call the other Home.

Your Humble Servant,

Bread, the Staff of Life.

Advertiſements.

Newly publiſh'd,

The MONTHLY AMUSEMNT. Numb. I. For April, 1709. Containing, *La Gitanilla*, the little Gypſie, a Novel, written by *Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra*, (Author of the Hiſtory of Don Quixote) and done from the Spaniſh by J. Ozell. Printed for D. Midwinter in St. Paul's Church-yard, and B. Lintott in Fleetſtreet: And ſold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s. And next Week will be Publiſh'd,

☞ Le MISANTROPE, *The Man-hater*, a Comedy, written by M. Le MOLIERE, for *Number* II. of the MONTHLY AMUSEMENT.

On Monday next will be publiſh'd,

☞ A Latin Poem, entituled, Muſcipula, ſive KAMBROMYOMAXIA, Authore E. Holdſworth, e Col. Magd. Oxon. Impenſis m Curll, ad Inſignе Pavonis extra Temple-Bar, & E. Sanger ſubter Medii Templi Portam, pretium 6 d. [N. B. This Poem is now firſt printed with the Author's Conſent, by him corrected and conſiderably enlarg'd; to which is added a Dedication, and adorn'd with a Cut curiouſly engraven.] Where may be had, Nundinæ Sturbrigienſes, Authore T. Hill, Coll. S. Trin. Soc. In fine adjiciuntur duo alia Poemata, pretium 6 d. Titi Perronii Arbitri (Equitis Romani) Satyricon, cum Fragmentis aliæ Græce Recuperatis, Ann. 1698. Edit. Nov. Charact. Nitidiſſ. 12mo. Pretium 1 s. 6 d.

There is now publiſh'd,

[*With her Majeſty's Royal Licenſe and Privilege, prohibiting all Perſons to Reprint or Abridge the ſame*].

SIR Bulſtrode Whitlocke's Memorials of the Engliſh Affairs; from the ſuppos'd Expedition of Brute to this Iſland, to the End of the Reign of King James the Firſt. Publiſh'd from his Original Manuſcript. With ſome Accounts of his Life and Writings by William Penn Eſq; Governor of Penſilvania; And a Preface by James Welwood, M. D. Printed for Edmund Curll, at the Peacock without Temple-Bar; Egbert Sanger, at the Poſt-Houſe at the Middle-Temple-Gate; and John Pemberton, at the Golden Buck againſt St. Dunſtan's-Church in Fleet-ſtreet; Folio. Price 12 s. At either of which Places, the Original Manuſcript may be ſeen.

*** The Hiſtory of ADDRESSES. Diu multumque deſideratum. By a Gentleman nearly related to the Author of the Tale of a Tub. Sold by the Booksellers of London and Weſtminſter.

A Fair well-built brick Houſe in Peckham, with a handſome Court-yard, Coach-houſes, Stabling, Out-houſes, &c. With Orchards and Gardens well planted and wall'd, being Six Acres, and a Field adjoining of Ten Acres. To be let, or the Leaſe ſold. Enquire of Mr. Woodford near the French Church in Threadneedle ſtreet.